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This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/971,766, filed October 9, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/261,505, filed March 3, 1999, the contents of both of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference; additionally, Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 98103767.4, filed March 4, 1998, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/076,752, filed March 4, 1998, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Page 1, line 10, add section subheading ~~42~~ Description of the Related Art prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Electrical cables, in particular"

Page 3, line 13, add section heading ~~3~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The Applicant has now found that"

On page 3, lines 13-33, amend the paragraph beginning "The Applicant has now found that", as follows:

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The Applicant has now found that, in consequence of a mechanical damage which creates a discontinuity in at least one of the cable coating layers, it is possible to obtain effective self-repairing of the coating by virtue of the presence of an inner layer, placed, for example, between the insulating layer and the outer sheath. This inner layer comprises a material having a predetermined cohesiveness and, at the same time, a controlled flowability, which is capable of repairing the damage by restoring the continuity of the coating layer. After creation of a discontinuity in the coating, the material "moves" towards the point of damage and fills up, at least partly, the discontinuity by forming a substantially continuous layer which is capable of maintaining the functionality of the cable under the expected working conditions. The action of the self-repairing material, which occurs with a reversible mechanism, prevents, among other things, moisture infiltration and establishment of leakage currents, and thus a quick corrosion of the conductor.

Page 16, line 18, add section heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Figure 1 shows schematically"

Page 16, line 35, add section heading DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The conductor (1) generally consists of metal wires"

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2-54.

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